Mr. M. K. Raman.—But I specify a particular road whether in the case of that particular road the adoption of this, principle was ever considered.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—What is it that you want? It was considered with reference to every public road. Wherever possible it has been given. It means all the roads were considered.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I particulary pointed out to the attention of the Government this particular road. I want to know whether this was also considered.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Wherever possible it has been considered. It implies all the roads. Then why do you ask one particular road?

President.—These are all difficult questions to answer.

Shallow portions of the back-water.

387. Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Government be pleased to say whether they are aware that considerable difficulty is experienced now by the contractors of the ferry boat from Ernakulam to Cochin on account of the shallowness of certain portions of the back-water and that boats often get stranded here and there causing much inconvenience and apprehension to the passengers?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

The question of dredging a deep channel between old Venduruthi and the Reclamation is being considered.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Cannot the Member give us some time-limit when the channel will be an accomplished fact?

President.—I think you had an interview with Mr. Bristow and he said that Rs. 18,000 would be required for deepening this channel.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—He also said that it will get silted up within about 3 or 4 years.

President.—So this dredging should go on once in every three or four years.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes. He also said that, if the Harbour becomes successful, which he says would be an accomplished fact within five years, this channel will have to be closed.

President.—If we spend this Rs. 18,000 now, it will be of no great use.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Even if the channel is dug there, it can remain only for two or three years; for his programme of work is to reclaim the shoals to the west of Venduruthi island, and when that work begins, he says he could permit the channel to remain there.

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President.—I hope this channel is useful. If the people want this channel, even though it would be for the next four years, what are we to do ? There is that point.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—At least for the four monsoons the people will be saved and after that we cannot say what all would happen.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—What he told me was that he would not advise the deepening of a channel; but for the next three or four years he would not object to have a channel there. He also said that, if the necessity is so great, it may be done.

President.—After these four years all this will be reclaimed.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sometimes the train may come after four years.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—May come. The development there is in such a fluid stage that we cannot suggest definitely anything now.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We will act for the present and leave the future for itself.

President.—Even if a channel is constructed, it will last for four years only. After four years it may so happen that that portion will have to be reclaimed.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Anyhow this could stand only for four years and for four years there will no obstruction by this. After that if there is no obstruction we will have to dredge it again.

I think an allotment was also made for a ferry channel a few years back. Somehow or other it was not done.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—It is very dangerous to cross the Harbour mouth especially during the monsoon. So the Government should not grudge to spend that even though it is for four years only.

President.—In what time could this be done ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—If we employ the big dredger, it would be done in a week's time. But Mr. Bristow anticipates whether the pipe-line should not be extended in the near future.

President.—Can you do it now ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The dredger 'Willington' is out of Harbour. It will not come here for this purpose. When the monsoon starts, this would come inside the backwater, when we can do this work.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We have other dredgers: Mannar, St. Andrews, Seetiff; could not these suffice for the work ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—St. Andrews is gone. Mannar is only a bucketter.

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President.—We will consider the question. We will not be scared away with the amount. We give an assurance that we will see that whatever is possible will be done.

Panangai Lane.

388. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) that it has not been brought to the attention of the Government that it is necessary to improve the Panangai lane lying to the south-east of Kaniampal Desom ;

(b) the number of petitions and representations received pointing out the necessity of improving this lane, by the Government including the Department of Education and also Revenue and Sanitary Departments ;

(c) whether the copies of those will be placed on the Table ;

(d) whether the Headmistress of the Girls' High School at Kunnamkulam has not brought to the attention of the Government or the Director of Public Instruction that, for the sake of the girls attending school from Kandanasseri, Iringapuram, Chemmannur, Porkalangad and other places, it is necessary to improve this lane;

(e) whether the owners of lands on either side of the lane have not tendered *kaichits* that they are prepared to give up lands free of cost, provided the Government would take up the work of improving the lane;

(f) has not this lane been inspected by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer; and if so, what is his report about improving it;

(g) whether any estimate has been prepared either by the Sanitary or P. W. Department for this; and if so, whether it will be placed on the Table;

(h) what is the difficulty that stands in the way of improving this lane?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Four petitions.

(c) Copies of the petitions received by the Diwan are placed on the Table. (*Vide Appendix II.*)

(d) Yes.

(e) No. A portion of the site is promised free while the remaining portion along the lane and the paddy fields for extending the lane has to be acquired.

(f) Yes. His report is that the necessity for the work is real; but the cost is prohibitive.

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